

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Parachute Production and Testing

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re: description of parachutes

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a report on the production and testing of parachutes in Czechoslovakia, including a description of five types of parachutes.

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MISCELLANEOUS PARACHUTE INFORMATION

Introduction

A. PARACHUTE PRODUCTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[redacted] it was general knowledge that before WW II there were two parachute factories in Czechoslovakia, one in LIBEREC called "Pak" and one in NOVY SVET near LIBEREC called "Svet". [redacted] these factories produced parachutes at an unknown time after WW II

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[redacted] after WW II these factories produced German-type parachutes as they did during WW II when they were operated by the German occupation authorities. The post-war parachutes [redacted] although of German type, bore Czechoslovak labels, and [redacted] might have been produced in these two factories. [redacted] it was possible these factories currently produced parachutes

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[redacted] the parachutes had been produced at ZILINA.

Parachutes [redacted] were delivered by the producers to the Military Supplies Agency (Vojenska prejimaci sprava).¹ [redacted]

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B. PARACHUTE TESTING AT HRADEC KRALOVE IN MAY 1953

In May 1953 a group of about 10 officer parachutists came to HRADEC KRALOVE from an unknown unit and location to test pilots' emergency parachutes there. The group was headed by Capt (fnu) LUKASEK (Airborne Forces).²

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[redacted] the other officers; most of whom were lieutenants. [redacted] about 50 parachutes tested. The testing lasted for two days and the jumping was done from three DC-3 planes of the 1st Transport Regiment stationed at Kbely Airfield in PRAGUE.

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[redacted] workers from ZILINA brought with them about 100 parachutes, which [redacted] they took back to the factory after they had been tested. Technical testing of an unknown nature had been conducted at the factory and three of them had been chosen at random and had been tested in a wind tunnel at the Letnany Airfield in PRAGUE. [redacted]

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The first 10-15 of the parachutes at HRADEC KRALOVE were dropped singly with dummies of human size and weight from a height of about 500 m and an unknown number were dropped from about 2000 m. Some unidentified officers from LUKASEK's group also jumped from 2000 m. The time required to open the chutes and the total elapsed time of the drop was checked, [redacted]

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all the parachutes tested were rated good. [redacted] there was a stronger jerk on opening these parachutes than on opening other, unspecified parachutes [redacted]

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After the tests a card was inserted in a small pocket in the lower rear of the pack of each parachute. These cards indicated the date of the testing, who had packed it and that the tests had been completed at HRADEC KRALOVE.

C. PARACHUTE VISUAL AIDS

In August 1955 at the 32d Aviation Regiment in TRENCIN, [redacted] visual training aid charts on the main parts of the PD-47 and PZ-47 parachutes. The visual aids were in Czech, [redacted] the chutes themselves were therefore of Czechoslovak manufacture

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D. THE PD-47 PARACHUTES (Parashyutno-Desantnyy)

"Parasutisticky Vycvik" (The Training of a Parachutist) described the PD-47 parachutes with both the round and square canopies [redacted]

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The PD-47s with round and square canopies were used by unspecified Czechoslovak Airborne Forces. [redacted]

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E. THE PZ-47 PARACHUTES (Parashyutno-zapasnyy)

The PZ-47 parachutes, with round and square canopies, were the reserve, chest-pack parachutes used in conjunction with the PD-47 round and square canopy parachutes respectively. The PZ-47s had no separate harness systems since the PD-47 harness systems accommodated the PZ-47s as well. The PZ-47 round canopy parachute had 20 panels and 20 suspension lines while the square canopy parachute had eight panels and eight suspension lines.

On the square-canopy PZ-47 the suspension lines extended only as far as the canopy while on the round PZ-47 all but two suspension lines went around the canopy. The PZ-47s were equipped with an emergency rip-cord handle. They had four risers as did the PD-47s. [redacted]

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F. THE PD-41 PARACHUTES (Parashyutno-Desantnyy)

The PD-41 parachutes as described in the book "Parasutisticky Sport" (The Sport of Parachuting) also consisted of a round-canopy and a square-canopy parachute. [redacted] the round PD-41 was similar to if not identical with the Model PD 6 r [redacted] this parachute had 24 and not 28 panels [redacted]

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According to "Parasutisticky Sport" the square parachutes were more manageable and less dangerous, and there was less jerk on opening than with the round parachutes. The round parachutes opened faster and were therefore safer in low-altitude jumps. There was also less oscillation with the round parachutes.

G. THE PZ-41 PARACHUTES (Parashyutno-zapasnyy)

The PZ-41 parachutes, square and round, were the reserve parachutes used with the PD-41 square and round parachutes respectively. [redacted] the round-canopy PZ-41 as described in "Parasutisticky Sport" was very similar to if not

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identical with the Model PS 41 [redacted]
[redacted]

H. THE PDT PARACHUTE (Parashyutno-Desantnyy Trenirovochnyy)

This training parachute had a round canopy. As described in "Parasutisticky Sport", it had 24 suspension lines and was a back-pack parachute with which no reserve parachute was used.³

I. SUPPLEMENTARY RELEASE DEVICE

[redacted] the supplementary release device [redacted]

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[redacted] an aneroid automatic release that could be used.

with any main parachute.

port, on the left side of the harness.

[redacted] it could somehow be adjusted to activate the opening of parachute at a desired height.

[redacted] the supplementary release cable housing [redacted]

[redacted] identical with that used with the aneroid device.

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1.

Comment :

[redacted] the Military Supplies Agency (Vojenska prejmaci sprava). [redacted]

[redacted] was subordinate to the Rear Services of the Army.

[redacted] the Air Force probably had its own military supplies agency which would have been subordinate to the Air Force Rear Services.

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2.

Comment : LUKASEK and the other officers in this group wore ground force uniforms and airborne shoulderboard insignia [redacted]

3.

Comment :

[redacted] the PDT parachute was used by the students jumping from the balloon at PRESOV in 1953.

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